Miss Carmichael and the Janitor

By Adele Marie Shaw

Miss Carmichael was pink, pretty, and young. The janitor did not approve of Miss Carmichael. She had come to teach in the "Washington Grammar" after the death of Miss Gadey, who had expired in the full dignity of her seventy-third year without ever noticing anything offensive in the condition of her class-room. Indeed, Miss Gadey's eyes had never been of the best; her class-room backed up conveniently familiar to the tenements behind, and the gratings that kept out tenement thieves further subdued the light of day.

Now Miss Gadey was gone, and this young thing with a pink face was in her place. And the young thing's eyes were good. James Lyons, the janitor, who was first cousin once removed to the wife of Assemblyman Doheny, had a store of knowledge quite irrelevant to the business of janitoring, but he could not account for Miss Carmichael's appointment. Yet here she was, this pink and white absurdity, brought into the city from "up state somewhere," and already she was making trouble for James Lyons. It was three o'clock, and she had left her "kept-ins" to the care of another teacher while she complained to the principal about the janitor. James Lyons could see her waiting her turn at the principal's desk. He armed himself with a duster, and drew near with the privileged.

"My room is very dirty," said Miss Carmichael to the principal. She stood primly by that excellent man's desk and enunciated her words distinctly. Principal Heise scanned the horizon to see if the janitor was in the offing. The janitor was. Mr. Heise lowered his voice.

"Vat iss?" he asked gently—very gently, lest Mr. Lyons hear.

"My room, Mr. Heise, No. 14, it's disgracefully dirty. The corners look as if they hadn't been really scrubbed for years. The floor—"

"Diss iss an oldt building, Miss Carmichael, and hardt to geep glean," put in Mr. Heise, pleasantly, letting his answer reach the ears of Mr. Lyons, now drawing nearer. Mr. Lyon's cousin's husband, even from the long range of the capital, had been able to hit offenders in Barge City with miraculous accuracy.

"All the more reason for the janitor's being particular," began Mary again. "Look at my skirt!" Miss Carmichael pointed to the bottom of her tailored skirt. "See this."

This was evidence no man of sensibility could behold unmoved. To add to the trim spotlessness of Miss Carmichael's gown such vile bordering was truly wanton. Even Mr. Heise was impressed. But he kept his impression to himself. Miss Carmichael, assured of victory, because her cause was just, retired.

Mr. Heise prepared to depart swiftly, lest she return. He locked his desk and emerged into the hall. The janitor's assistant, an ancient woman in the garb of pictured furies, was wielding a mammoth feather duster upon the floor of the opposite room in the place of an absent broom; through the thick haze raised by her labors she loomed dimly awful, a portentous figure.

Outside the schoolhouse door Mr. Lyons was consuming a fat cigar. He himself was not accustomed to engage in the more arduous activities of cleaning; his it was to watch over the safety of the building. Who knew how soon someone might want to steal the "Washington Grammar!" He missed the 35 cents he had to pay the old woman, for his salary was only $3,000, and out of that he had to hire the care of the furnaces. Yet even with the help of his wife—hired to his assistance in any emergency like graduation or Saturday blackboard washing—he could not dispense with the "assistant."

"Pleasant day, Mr. Lyons," said the principal, with non-committal quiet. Mr. Heise would not needlessly stir up hornets, but he also would not openly bend the knee to the school tyrant.

"Huh!" replied Mr. Lyons, and vouchsafed no more. Miss Carmichael had not been properly "put down."

During the next ten days Miss Carmichael was continually in disgrace with the office. She was reported (by the janitor) for "allowing her pupils to abuse school furniture," and sure enough, jagged scratches were found upon the varnished desks of No. 14. She was reported (by the janitor's assistant) for having a room "disorderly at recess." She was reported (by a teacher on the floor below) because the noise in Miss Carmichael's room was "so awful you couldn't hear yourself think, much less teach." This teacher's brother was a fellow laborer with Mr. Lyons in the political vineyard. She always got her chalk and paper before the janitor had time to distribute the supplies to any room but hers, and no spots were ever found on her floor.

These things were all mysterious to Miss Carmichael, but she suspected the source of her discomforts and disgrace.

"What has this school done that it should be at the mercy of that illiterate bully?" she asked aloud, and was overheard. Mr. Lyons was eavesdropping.

"I shall have a plain talk with him. It's pitiful the way people bow down to that dreadful man," confided Miss Carmichael on an evening somewhat later. She was talking to a new acquaintance. She was too young not to talk "shop," and she interpreted the inertness of her listener's look as the evidence of an interest deep as her own in the subject of tyrannical janitors.

Sandys was the name of the new acquaintance. He was uncle by marriage to the Ogilvies, and the Oglevies also came from Fayetteville. It was at the house of the Oglevies that they were talking. Mr. Sandys was not young, like Miss Carmichael, but he appeared more youthful; his old age was greenly vigorous, while Miss Carmichael's pink prettiness was staid almost to solemnity when she discoursed upon the janitor. In Mr. Sandys' small, alert eyes was a force of authority that contradicted sharply a full-fed, jovial manner.

From the back platform of a Wedgerley avenue car Mr. Lyons bowed respectfully, lifting his hat as if a wind had snatched it, when he saw Sandys pass in an automobile His cousin by marriage was a big man at the capital, but he was a mere dot on the political landscape compared to Matthew Sandys. So Mr. Lyons bowed with great energy.

Mr. Sandys evidently did not see the bow. Mr. Lyons' mind went back to the consideration of his own course about Miss Carmichael. If she came to him humbly enough, should he let her off?

Thus communing, he reached the street corner he wanted, which was also the Ogilvies' corner. The Ogilvies were not in politics, and Mr. Lyons had never heard of them. As he moved down the street he perceived that the automobile which had passed him, carrying Matthew Sandys, was standing before one of the doors directly in his path, and Matthew, smiling and plainly respectful in manner, assisting the passage of a young woman down the steps. Upon the Ogilvies, also smiling and wearing a holiday air of anticipation, Mr. Lyons bestowed no glance. Rooted, paralyzed, dry of throat and quaking like the aspen of the field, he let a goggling stare remain in horrified fixedness upon the young woman who was the object of so much care of Mr Sandys.

Mr. Lyons looked ill when the browbeaten wife of his bosom, she who washed the blackboards on Sunday, pressed upon him belated refreshment.

Never was the triumph of courage more amazingly proved than in the plain talk conducted by Miss Carmichael and listened to by Mr. Lyons, janitor of the "Washington Grammar." Mr. Lyons spoke with sincere emotion when at the end of the interview he said he hoped that Miss Carmichael harbored no "hard feelin's." Miss Carmichael gave him her hand in a firm little grasp and went forth triumphant.

It was a victory, not only for No 14, but for the whole of the "Washington Grammar," that became as it were overnight clean to the degree Mr. Lyons was able to conceive as the limit of endurable cleanliness With the ardor of one who buttresses an endangered job, Mr. Lyons labored. A layer of dirt was taken off each room. The thick cushion over the doors, the windows, the pictures, the woolly heaps under the teachers' desks, still bred their germs in unmolested peace, but the floors no longer added to the hem of a teacher's skirt a gray fuzz.

"It is a lesson to me," confided Miss Carmichael to her friend, Mr. Sandys "I shall try never to be afraid again when I see my duty."

"That's right," said Mr. Sandys.

BAD WALLPAPER TO BLAME

Unsightly Hangings Responsible for Rumpus Between the Occupants of City Flat.

The couple across the court of a hundred windows had had a pitched battle the night before. The wife had run around the room calling the husband terrible names, the husband had run after her, more than recriprocating, the children in a panic, dragging at the skirts of the mother, doing their best to bring things to a halt, but unsuccessfully.

Finally they had quieted down after a long time and the lights had gone out.

The next morning the woman opposite saw a hand reach out for a poorly kept flower that had been on the fire escape, drag it in, put it with a pile of chairs and things, and somebody take the whole business away, leaving the flat empty.

For the first time she saw the poor bare unpainted floors and the wall paper.

She started back at the sight of the wallpaper. Huge figures, nondescript figures, bright red, terrible! Great angry figures calculated to go to the head, to produce mania, monomania dipsomania, melancholia and a tendency to suicide.

"No wonder they fought" she cried, putting her hand to her eyes quickly to shut out the view.

SANDY LOAM REGARDED AS BEST FOR CELERY

Vegetable Has Become So Improved by Cultivation Is Delicious and Palatable—Transplanted in Summer Time.

Celery, which in its native state is a hardy biennial, has been so improved by cultivation that it has become a delicious and palatable vegetable. While it may be grown on any well-drained, fertile soil, a sandy loam will give best results for the following reasons: First, the quality of celery is superior to that grown on any other type of soil; second, the texture of the celery is firmer than that grown on muck soils, and therefore the shipping quality is better; third, when celery is grown on either clay or muck soil, neither of which dries out readily after rain, the land is too frequently injured by harvesting while the soil is wet. Celery that is grown on a sandy soil can be harvested several days earlier after a wet season than that grown on a clay or muck soil. This is an important point when one considers how much it might mean to the grower to have his crop delayed a few days in reaching the market and how seriously he might injure his soil by harvesting while the land is too wet. While this applies to any method of growing celery, it is especially true when the celery is blanched by banking with soil.

Celery is transplanted to the field during the summer months, when it is very hot and the soil usually dry. It is therefore necessary to water the plants as they are set out, but even though they are watered freely some of the plants will die if the weather remains dry and hot many days after the plants are transplanted.

When the plants are thinned in the seed bed those removed may be set in 2½-inch paper pots and, after shading for a few days, treated in the same way as the plants in the seed bed. They will probably require more frequent watering unless they are plunged half their depth in soil.

The tops of the plants in the seed bed and also those in pots should be clipped back to about half their length three weeks before transplanting to the field and watered sparingly the last week before transplanting. An hour before the plants are removed from the beds they should be watered freely, and those in paper pots may then be set in the field without further watering. The pots will be partially decayed and need not be removed from around the plants when set in the field. Plants treated as described above will hardly be checked in their growth by transplanting.

In order to guard against carrying disease from the plant bed to the field the plants should be thoroughly sprayed with Bordeaux mixture a few days before being removed from the plant beds. All dead and yellow leaves should be stripped from the plants after they are taken from the bed before they are carried to the field.

Late celery for winter use is blanched by soil. The plants are set in the field during July and early August, and the blanching is begun about the last of September. The celery is usually ready for use by the 20th of November, but will continue to grow rapidly during December and will usually need no protection until the last of that month, when it may be protected by covering entirely with soil or straw, or it may be stored in a suitable frame or trenched.

The medicinal value of celery when used as a regular diet is of no little account; though the actual nourishing value is small when compared with many other foods, it affords a variety and spice to the family meals that should not be overlooked; and as it can be had at a time of the year when vegetables are scarce and meat is consumed in larger quantities than it should be, it becomes a matter of no small import for the farmers of Michigan to see to it that the crop is properly looked after. It will pay, and though the production of the finest grade of celery is possible only where the highest skill is applied to the best soil and climatic conditions, yet the average farmer can grow the plant and secure an inexpensive supply of appetizing food for the fall and winter months.

A Promising Celery Crop After the First Banking with Earth.

WOLF RIVER APPLES POPULAR

Bring More Money Than Any Other Kind—Of Excellent Flavor and Keep Hard Long.

This is a picture of a basket of Wolf River apples. They are not popular with all growers, but on account of their fine appearance we last year received five cents a bushel more over all other kinds. They are smooth and of excellent flavor, but remain quite hard until after Christmas. We have frequently picked 12 bushels from a medium-sized tree.

Wolf River Apples.

The Wolf River apple was originated by Mr. Springer of Fremont, Wis. The trees remain remarkably free from disease and the ravages of insects. Severe cold does not affect them in the least and they grow with a dark green, luxuriant foliage.

The apples grow large, measuring on an average about twelve inches in circumference. They are of a beautiful red color, which makes them sell readily.

Renting on Shares.

A reader would like to know "what the owner of a farm, renting on shares, is required to furnish the one who rents." The question is not entirely clear, but it is presumed that the correspondent means working on shares instead of renting. In that case it is a common custom for the landowner to furnish the land and seed, and the other party to give the labor and manure. In some cases the cost of manure or fertilizer is shared equally. The income of the crop is equally divided.

GOATS USEFUL BRUSH EATERS

Successfully Demonstrated in California Where They Are Eating Trails For Fire Guards.

The brush-eating instinct of the Angora goat is being successfully demonstrated on the Lassen national forest in California, where they are cutting trails for fire guards through the brushy areas on the slopes of the mountains.

The animals, which number 2,000, have been divided into two bands, and under the care of the herders are grazed within certain well-defined areas so that their work may be concentrated on the brush within those limits. The result is that they have practically killed nearly all the brush in the course either by eating it up entirely, or by barking, as in the case of the heavy manzanita bushes. At the beginning of the experiment there was some doubt as to the goats' willingness to eat the manzanita, but it has been found that where there is little else they will just as readily attack it as any other bushes.

The grazing season was so late this year on the Lassen forest that the goats did not begin operations until about the middle of June, but since then they have made rapid progress and the result promises to be a success from every point of view. The trails will first be opened and then kept free of sprouts by the goats, saving the government considerable labor in cutting them out by hand, as has been done heretofore, while the brushy forage which otherwise would have been wasted will support 3,000 goats very comfortably.

Feed for the Sow.

Feed the sow lightly of heavy feeds for a week or more before and for the same time after farrowing so that she will not take on surplus fat and so that an early excess of milk will not be produced. When the pigs are about a week old, the feed may be increased gradually till the sow receives all she will eat. Let the feeds be of a kind that will produce milk. Exclusive corn diet is not good for sows with litters.

POULTRY AND BEES

DOES POULTRY ON FARM PAY?

If Same Care and Attention Given As to Other Stock Chickens Become Most Profitable.

We often hear some of our farmers says: "My poultry does not pay. I get very few eggs during the summer and none at all during the winter." If you will take the trouble to investigate this farmer's flock of poultry you will say at once it's no wonder that his flock of poultry does not pay.

It seems strange that the average farmer who will take good care of his cows, horses, pigs and sheep will let his flock of poultry shift for themselves and not furnish them very much to shift on, either. Usually their house is an old shed in too poor a condition to keep anything else in, with leaky roof, cracks in the side for ventilation, some old poles for perches, perhaps not cleaned out more than once a year, a good breeding place for lice, but a poor place for poultry if you expect it to pay.

Then his flock is mongrel bred, all sizes, shapes and colors, and while this same farmer will probably take particular pains to get the best blood

Black Spanish Chickens.

possible in his cattle and other live stock, he never thinks of improving the size or laying quality of his poultry.

Then for feeding in summer they shift for themselves. This will probably do when the flock has plenty of free range, but in the winter it is about the same thing, with corn added as the principal diet. No water except occasionally when they happen to think of it. Is it any wonder that this farmer's poultry does not pay?

Now change this plan and take care of your poultry as you do your other stock, and see how quickly they respond to good treatment and become the best property you have on the farm. If you have not time yourself, turn them over to your wife, daughter or boy. Furnish them a good, warm building, where they can be kept clean; use judgment in feeding; give plenty of all kinds of grain, not too much corn, except at night in winter; have fresh water before them all the time; you will probably be surprised to see the amount of water they will drink; give them the scraps from the table and green vegetables chopped fine occasionally. The small potatoes boiled make an excellent feed for a change. Keep plenty of grit and oyster shells where they can reach it handily and a little charcoal also. Try this plan for a while and keep account of all expenditures and receipts and we will guarantee that your poultry will pay.

Don't keep poor stock. It does not cost any more to feed a well-bred flock of Black Spanish, White or Brown Leghorns, Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks than it does to keep scrubs that will weigh from four to five pounds each. Sell off the old stock for what they will bring and start in right with a few full-blooded birds that you will be proud to see about the farm. At this season of the year you can buy first-class stock very reasonable and now is the time to make your start. Remember that poultry does pay.

We now have plenty of poultry farms from Maine to California. The figures for the industry in the United States are almost beyond belief and still credible. Many poultrymen have incomes of from $5,000 to $20,000 annually from poultry alone and still many think that poultry does not pay. They will return more for the amount invested than any other stock kept on the farm.

POULTRY YARD NOTES.

Buttermilk ranks next to skim milk in feeding value.

Feed the hens plenty of good, bulky nutritious food made up of egg materials or fat forming materials, dependent on whether you wish them to lay or to prepare them for market, but avoid drugs.

Wood ashes should not be thrown into the poultry yard. It will blister out and injure the shanks and toes of the fowls, and it is a waste of good fertilizing material that ought to go on the garden.

A clean poultry house puts money into the farmer's or poultry raiser's pocket.

Chickens are fond of sour milk, and it is good for them.

No matter how much people may sneer you can make good money with poultry at present prices for eggs and fowls. If you do not the fault is all your own.

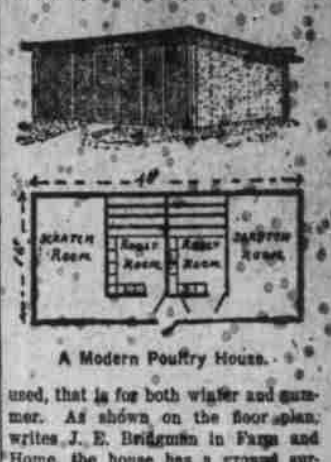
Keep Lice from Poultry.

A good method for keeping lice from troubling the poultry at night is to suspend the roosting poles by wires from the rafters of the house. If the poles are smooth, the lice will not remain on them if they are there at all.

MODERN HOUSE FOR POULTRY

Inexpensive Coop That Will Accommodate Chickens During Cold and Hot Seasons.

The writer has owned and operated two poultry farms during the past five years and during that time has built and tried many different poultry houses. The house shown in the illustration is, he believes, the best so far



A Modern Poultry House.

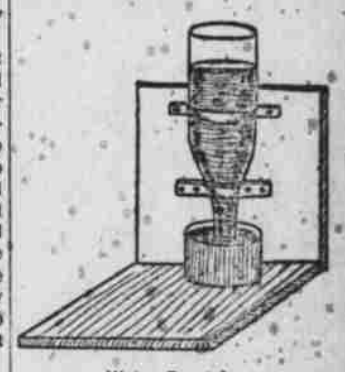
used, that is for both winter and summer. As shown on the floor plan, writes J. E. Bridgman in Farm and Home, the house has a ground surface 16x40 feet in size; it is 10 feet high in front and five feet at the eaves. The roof, rear and the two ends are covered with eight-inch shiplap and this in turn covered with a good grade of roofing felt. The corner boards and frieze are nailed on over the felt. A gutter is formed by nailing a two by six inch timber near the eaves as shown. This is lined with roofing felt and given a three-inch fall to one end. This keeps the rear side of the house dry. Usually this side is to the north and the water from the roof keeps the ground damp and wet at all times, as it is never reached by the sun. As will be seen in the front view, the entire front is open and covered with poultry netting; the door hung with spring hinges.

The nest and roost rooms are built in the center, as shown on the floor plan, and are nine by twelve feet square; the remaining space is devoted to scratching sheds. A door in the hall separates the house into two departments and if desired two breeds may be kept. The doors to the nest and roost rooms are simply frames covered with heavy cloth; also the two three by four foot windows which are shown above the nests. The doors and windows are closed during the cold months and left open through the summer. During wet or stormy weather the birds are confined and the scratching room floors covered with six or eight inches of straw. A few handfuls of grain are scattered in this litter and the birds will be contented all day long. A laying hen is naturally very nervous and should not be frightened or bothered if you expect her to do her best. This house is inexpensive, does not look out of place in the poultry yard and it will give the birds the care needed, which they cannot receive with a house without a scratching room.

WATER FOUNTAIN FOR CHICKS

One Can Be Made Out of an Ordinary Bottle and Fastened So It Won't Spill.

Tack two pieces of strap or wire to a board (or on the coop), so a bottle will be held securely with the neck a little below top of low can. Fill bot-



Water Fountain.

tle, cork and place in position, take out cork and as water is drunk from the can more will run in till bottle is empty. Chicks will not upset the can or get into it.

GOOD FEED FOR YOUNG DUCKS

How and What to Feed the Goslings Until They Reach the Age of Six Weeks.

Until the ducks are five days old feed them every three hours of the following mixture: Ten parts by measure of cracker or bread crumbs, ten parts corn-meal, three parts hard-boiled eggs and one part sand. From then until they are 20 days old they are fed at 6 and 10 a. m. and 2 and 6 p. m. of the following: Five pounds each wheat bran and buckwheat bran, 12 pounds cornmeal, two pounds rolled oats, four pounds meatmeal, three pounds oyster shells.

From the time they are 20 days old until six weeks old they are fed four times a day on a mixture composed of two pounds wheat bran, six pounds buckwheat bran, 18 pounds cornmeal, four pounds boiled beef and bone and three pounds oyster shells. After this they are fed three times a day and the cornmeal is increased, the ration being made of 23 pounds cornmeal, five pounds wheat bran, four pounds boiled meat and bone, or cornmeal, and two pounds grit. As the ducks have the run of a grass plot no green food is given them.

All of the elements in skim milk are digestible and rich in bone and blood making material.